

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4134

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

USIA/VOA MIAMI

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GUATAMALA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BRASILIA 1634

USIAC

ATTN: IOP/M, IPS, IBS, RIM, ILA

STATE FOR ARA/PAF

SAN JOSE PASS SECSTATE'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, ETRD, US, BR, XM

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

BRASILIA NEWSPAPERS:

1. CORREIO BRAZILIENSE STORY UNDER SIX-COLUMN FRONT-PAGE
HEADLINE "BLOCKADE: AMERICAN BUSINESS WANTS MORE RESTRICTIONS
ON BRAZILIAN IMPORTS" SAY: "WITHOUT TAKING ACCOUNT OF
SECSTATE KISSINGER'S STATEMENTS--OR PERHAPS EVEN PURPOSELY
ACTING AGAINST THEM-- INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
YYJOYY RECOMMENDESTO PRESIDENT FORD A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE
IN TARIFFS ON SHOE IMPORTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE PRODUCED IN BRAZIL.
THE PROBLEM OF SURTAXES ON (BRAZILIAN) SHOES WAS ONE OF MAIN
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SUBJECTS DISCUSSED BY KISSINGER IN BRAZIL AND IT IS BELIEVED

THERE WERE EVEN PROMISES THE PROBLEM WOULD BE REVIEWED IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE CERTAIN ITEMS CLASSIFIED BY THE SECSTATE HIMSELF AS 'IRRITANTS' IN US TRADE RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL. ACCORDING TO SOME SOURCES, SUCH PROMISES COULD EVEN BE PART OF BARGAIN: BRAZIL WOULD NOT JOIN OPEC-STYLE CARTELS IN EXCHANGE FOR US REVIEW OF TRADE ACT. ..." (FEB. 24).

(B) ANOTHER FRONT-PAGE BOX HEADLINED "COLOMBIA IS WORRIED OVER 'BRAZILIAN HEGEMONY'" SAYS: "... AFTER 'CORDIAL' DISCUSSION WITH SECSTATE KISSINGER, THE COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT MADE CLEAR HIS ANNOYANCE WITH US EVIDENT PREFERENCE FOR BRAZIL IN HEMISPHERIC MATTERS. ..." (FEB. 24).

(B) CORREIO EDITORIAL CRITICIZES US MEDIA REACTION AGAINST SECSTATE'S BRASILIA SPEECH: "... GENERALLY UNEMOTIONAL AND SERIOUS ANALYSTS, THE LEADING US MEDIA LOST BOTH SERENITY AND SERIOUSNESS ... IN SUBJECTIVELY STRESSING THE DANGER THAT A 'BRAZIL-GREAT-POWER' WOULD REPRESENT FOR BRAZIL'S NEIGHBORS. ... MR. KISSINGER DID NOTHING BUT STATE AN OBVIOUS TRUTH. ... THE AMERICAN MEDIA ARE TRYING TO CREATE CONFLICT BETWEEN BRAZIL AND ITS NEIGHBORS." (FEB. 24).

2. JORNAL DE BRASILIA: STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE OF SHOE RESTRICTION PROPOSAL BOXED FRONT-PAGE. PAGE SIX HAS REPORTS SECSTATE'S RIO ITINERARY AND SATURDAY MEETING WITH BRAZILIAN ECONOMISTS. LATTER EMPHASIZES SECSTATE'S BELIEF IN LIMITING GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE IN ECONOMY. ALSO ON PAGE SIX CRITICISM OF US-BRAZIL MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING PER EL TIEMPO EDITORIAL AND LOPEZ MICHELSEN PRESS CONFERENCE. SIMILAR TONE TO VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT DECLARATION, HEADED "LATAM SHOULD ACT AS COMMUNITY, SAYS PEREZ." ALSO GOB FONOFF REPORTED UNWILLING TO COMMENT ON US MEDIA CRITICISM OF SECSTATE SPEECH OR REACTION OF OTHER LATAM COUNTRIES TO MEMO. MINISTRY REPORTED TO BE EMPHASIZING "WEIGHT WHICH SECSTATE GAVE BRAZIL IN SPEECH" AND SECSTATE'S "HIGH DEGREE OF COMPREHENSION OF BRAZILIAN SITUATION." (FEB. 24).
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